

ALEKS

STUDENT Guide

Fall 2010

What is ALEKS?

Aleks is a software program that you will be using this semester. Aleks is very student friendly and will help you to work on and master the skills you need to be successful in your mathematics course.

It is **MANDATORY** that you work on ALEKS. The required work will count for as much as 30% of your final grade. Because the percentage that ALEKS counts toward your grade is so great, **you will not be able to pass the course if you do not do the work on ALEKS that is required of you!**

How do I register for ALEKS?

A. Students who do not have an active course code in ALEKS

The textbook that you purchase in the bookstore has come packaged with an ALEKS Access Code. You will **be required** to use Aleks this semester. There is almost no chance of your passing the course with a grade of 'C' or better if you do not work on ALEKS. If you have purchased a new textbook at the College Bookstore, it will come packaged with an ALEKS access code that you will need to register. When you open your new textbook package, be careful not to throw out the ALEKS access code by mistake. If you have purchased a used textbook, you will be able to buy a stand-alone ALEKS access code from the bookstore.

The following steps will guide you through the student registration

- Go to the Aleks website by typing in the following address:
<http://www/aleks.com>
- Click on "SIGN UP NOW" in the upper left hand corner of the window
- At the beginning of registration, you will be asked for your Course Code. Your instructor supplies the Course Code. Enter this in the spaces provided, on the left-hand part of the window and click on "Continue".
- To continue your registration you will be asked for your Access Code. It is on the sticker inside the back cover of the Aleks booklet. Enter the Access Code in the spaces provided and click on "Continue". Answer the questions to complete your registration. You will be asked to enter your email address. Supplying this information enables you to be contacted quickly with any information you need to know.
- At the end of the registration you will create a Login Name and Password. Write these down and keep them in a safe place. You will need them to return to the system. You can change your password at any time. If you do, make sure to write down the new password so you will be able to login to the system.

NOTE: Attached to this student guide is the ALEKS Student Registration Instruction handout sent by the ALEKS support group to help make your registration easier.

B. Students who used ALEKS last semester

If you are in Mat-010B or Mat-013B and you took Mat-010A or Mat-013A in the spring semester, or if you are retaking Mat-010, Mat-013, Mat-010A or Mat-013A this semester, your ALEKS code might still be active. You can try to log in and see what happens. If in fact your code is still active, you can move yourself from the spring 2010 course you took to the fall 2010 course you are taking. Follow the directions below to move yourself to your current course:

Instructions for moving from one ALEKS course to another:

1. Log in to ALEKS using the user name and password from your previous course.
2. At the top of top of the screen, click on OPTIONS
3. In the middle of the screen, click on CHANGE COURSE CODE
4. Enter the course code of the new course you are beginning
5. You are now in the new course and will be asked to take an appropriate Assessment.

What will my computer need to run ALEKS?

Aleks will run on nearly any computer, including PC's and Macs. You will have to download the necessary Aleks plug-in. Once you have logged in, the system will automatically check to see if you have the most recent version of the ALEKS plug-in. If you do not have the necessary plug-in, it will download the plug-in and ask your permission to install. After you grant permission, it will install the plug-in. Do not interrupt the installation process until a message appears stating that the installation is complete and asks you to restart your browser, You will need to quit your Web browser (exit, close or quit under the 'file' menu), open your browser again and go back to the ALEKS website. It would be a good idea to mark this website as a favorite or bookmark it for future use

How will I know how to enter my answers into the system?

Most of the questions in ALEKS are not multiple choices. Before working on the system you will be given a TUTORIAL that will teach you how to use the simple tools needed to answer your mathematics questions. It trains to use the ALEKS input tool (called the 'Answer Editor'. While you are using ALEKS, you can click on the HELP button at any time to bring you back to the TUTORIAL, if needed. Do NOT hit the 'back space' when changing an answer in ALEKS. It might register as a wrong answer. Use the 'Clear' button instead.

How has ALEKS been set up for your use in your course?

❖ ASSESSMENTS

The first time you log in to the system and after you have been trained on the Tutorial described above, you will automatically be given an Assessment. The system will ask you to solve a series of problems. This will take about 30 minutes and the results will tell you and your instructor what skills you already know and what skills you will have to master.

The Initial Assessment must be taken in the Learning Center in Johnson Commons. This assessment is not included as part of your final grade. Since the results are clear indications of what you know and what you need to learn, make sure that you answer questions to the best of your ability. You would not want the system to register that you don't know something you do know. In order to be of real help to you, the assessment must be as accurate as possible

Make sure that you leave enough time to take the initial assessment (usually about 30-45 minutes). Once you begin, you will not be able to retake it.

Important Note:

If you score 80% or better on the initial assessment of ALEKS, you might be allowed to move on to the next Mathematics course you need. Go to Center 2 and speak with either Dr. DeLucia or Dr. Groninger about moving up to the next course. You have only one week to do this and so taking the initial assessment quickly is important.

The results of the initial assessment will be presented in the form of a **color-coded pie chart**. Slices of the pie chart correspond to parts of the syllabus. The solidly colored part of a slice indicates how close you are to mastering that part of the syllabus. Once in a while, a new progressive assessment will pop up for you to take. This happens after you have spent a certain amount of time on the system or have made a certain amount of progress (usually mastering 20 skills). If you take an Assessment after working for a while and you have forgotten a skill, it will be added back to your pie.

❖ **'MY PIE'**

Following the presentation of assessment results, the system will display a pie chart navigation tool called "My Pie". After the assessment, you will be given a percentage telling you what part of the required skills you know and a percentage telling you what part of the required skills you have to learn. The percent you knew when you were assessed is shown in blue, the percent you have learned after that is shown in green and the percent you still need to master is shown in yellow. If you knew 30% of the skills when you were assessed, there will be a colored blue line showing 30%, if at any time after that, you have mastered 60% more, there will be a green line showing 60% and if you still have to master 10%, there will be a yellow line showing 10%. The total of the blue and green percent is the total percent of the skills you have mastered. The best you can do is to complete 100% of the pie by the end of the course.

Any time you want to see how you are doing, you can click on 'My Pie' at the top of the screen. Your instructor will have the same access to seeing your pie throughout the semester.

THIS PERCENTAGE OF THE COMPLETED PIE WILL COUNT FOR 15% OF YOUR FINAL GRADE. THIS IS A LARGE PERCENTAGE AND YOU WILL NEED TO WORK CONSISTENTLY ON ALEKS TO COMPLETE THE PIE

IMPORTANT NOTE:

There are times that your pie will actually show a decrease in the skills you have mastered. This happens because when you have worked on ALEKS for a while and learned many skills or if you have ignored ALEKS for a long time, you will get a new progressive assessment. If this assessment shows that you no longer know the skills that you did a while ago, these skills will be removed from your pie. Don't be discouraged. Once you refresh your memory and show ALEKS that you know the skills you had a few weeks ago, the skills will be added back to your pie. If you work consistently and often, your pie will grow until you have completed.

❖ LEARNING MODE

Once you have taken the assessment and your individual pie has been created, you are ready to work on the skills you need to master. The work you do on in the Learning Mode will be done outside of class, working on almost any computer.

In the Learning Mode, you will click on a sector of your pie and choose a skill that you are ready to learn. You are given practice problems based on the chosen topic. In addition, you receive explanations of how to solve this kind of problem if you need help. There are also other resources available. There are PDF's of the text, as well as video lectures on many of the topics.

The system will require a number of correct answers before it assumes that you have mastered the concept. Then it "adds it to your pie." At this point, a more complete pie chart will be shown and you can choose a new topic to work on. If you make mistakes, more correct answers will be required. If you tire of this topic and wish to choose another, you can click on "My Pie" near the topic of the window. This will make you exit the topic and you will return to your pie chart for a new choice. The course you are in and the ALEKS pie do not always coincide. Your instructor will give you an outline for the course that will help you to pace yourself in ALEKS during the semester.

❖ QUIZZES

You will be required to take quizzes on Aleks for this course. The Aleks quizzes and your instructor's own quizzes will make up 15% of your final grade.

Even though you are taking quizzes, the quizzes are found under the HOMEWORK tab and not the QUIZ tab.

There are two kinds of quizzes; Mastery Quizzes and Practice Quizzes. The Mastery Quizzes may be taken only one time, without any hints or help from the Aleks system. The Practice quizzes are very similar to the Mastery quizzes. You can take a Practice quiz as many times as you like until you are ready for the Mastery quiz. Because you may take the Mastery only once, **don't rush** to take it until you are really ready. **Mastery Quizzes are set up to be taken only in the Learning Center in Johnson Commons. Follow the information under the Learning Center in this guide to learn the procedures you will follow in the Learning Center.**

❖ MY PROGRESS IN ALEKS

The Report and Gradebook tabs can be use to see how you are doing on the pie and on the mastery quizzes. Your instructor will have access to this information as well. No other student will be able to see your personal information! Keep track of your progress so that you do not fall behind on this course requirement. Remember, ALEKS can count for as much as 30% of your grade in this course.

❖ THE LEARNING CENTER IN JOHNSON COMMONS- IRC 241

The Johnson Commons Learning Center can provide assistance for you in your developmental mathematics course. There are computers, from which you can access ALEKS, as well as tutors available to you. Because your initial assessment on ALEKS and all ALEKS Mastery Quizzes must be taken in the Learning Center, you will be required to work in the Learning Center at various times during the semester. You are always welcome to come to the Learning Center to do your developmental mathematics work and studying.

Student Use of the Learning Center:

Upon entering the Learning Center, you will be asked to sign in. You will need to show a current, valid MCC student ID to use the Learning Center. All ID cards must be validated for the current term by going to the Student Activities office in the College Center.

Taking a Mastery Quiz in the Learning Center:

1. You must let the tutor on duty know that you will be taking a Mastery Quiz before starting the Quiz.
2. You will not be able to get help while taking a Mastery Quiz.
3. When the quiz is complete, you must let the tutor know that you have finished so that your score may be recorded for reporting to your instructor. You will be asked to show ID and your score to a Learning Center staff member upon completing the quiz.

Tutoring in the Learning Center

Students who are in need of assistance with homework or with reviewing for an exam should see one of the tutors in the Learning Center. Tutors work on a first-come, first-serve basis, rotating through students who are requesting assistance; therefore we ask you to be patient. Tutoring will be more successful if you come to the Learning Center prepared with questions. If you are working on homework, you should complete as much as you can on your own so that the tutor can know exactly what help to provide. Tutors will not provide help on graded take-home assignments, ALEKS Mastery Quizzes or ALEKS assessments.

Workshops in the Learning Center

At the beginning of the semester, there will be ALEKS workshops held in the Learning Center. This will help you to become familiar with ALEKS right from the start. There will also be topic specific workshops held during the semester in the Learning Center. A schedule of these workshops will be distributed as soon as it is available.

❖ TECHNICAL TIPS AND SUPPORT

As every software program has its idiosyncrasies, ALEKS is no exception. As students have been using the system, they have provided us with some helpful tips to pass on to new ALEKS users.

- Do not start an ALEKS assessment unless you have the time to complete it in one sitting.
- If you are entering an answer in the Learning Mode of ALEKS and you want to change it, do not hit the Back Space on your computer. Sometimes that will register your answer to be incorrect. Use the 'Clear' button on the palette to erase an answer that you have entered incorrectly.
- You can get technical support by going in to the Johnson Commons Learning Center.
- **You can get technical support and consultation by using the following:**
online: <http://support.aleks.com> phone: (714) 619-7090
fax: (714) 245-7190

ALEKS Student Registration Instructions

Before you begin, you will need:

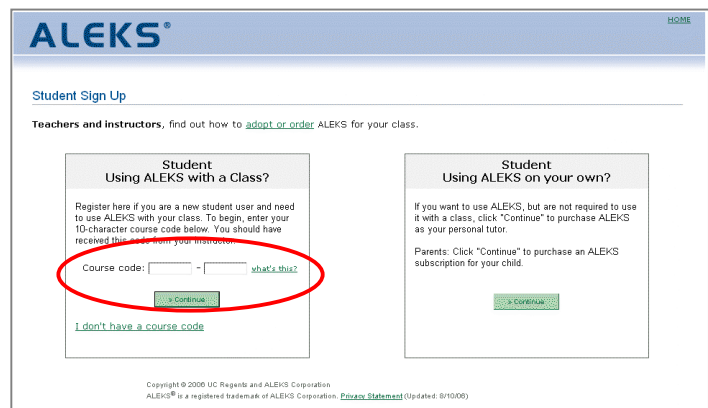
- A 10-Digit Course Code provided by your instructor.
- A 20-Digit Access Code packaged with your textbook *or purchased during registration.*

Step 1: Go to the **ALEKS** website for Higher Education Math by typing in the following address: <http://www.aleks.com> on your web browser.

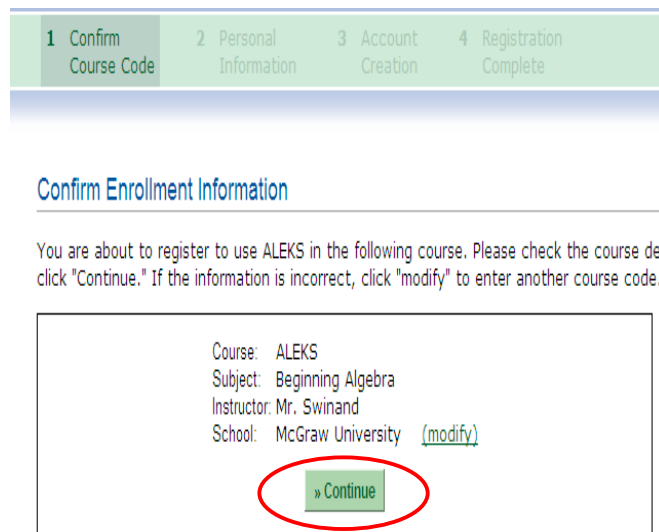
Step 2: Click on "SIGN UP NOW!"



Step 3: Enter your 10-digit "Course Code" AND click "Continue."



Step 4: Confirm Course Information and Click "Continue."



Step 5: Enter Your Personal Information Read the Agreement, click in the checkbox, and click “Continue.”

The screenshot shows the 'Enter Your Personal Information' step of the ALEKS registration process. It includes a progress bar at the top with four steps: 1. Confirm Course Code, 2. Personal Information, 3. Account Creation, and 4. Registration Complete. The current step is 'Enter Your Personal Information'. Below the progress bar, there are fields for 'First Name', 'Initials', and 'Last Name'. An optional section for 'E-mail Address and Student ID Number' is also present. At the bottom, there is a section for 'Review and Accept ALEKS Terms of Service' with a checkbox for 'I have read and agree to the terms of the ALEKS User Agreement.' and a green 'Continue' button circled in red.

Step 6: Account Creation, Write Down Your Login and Password, click “Continue.”

The screenshot shows the 'Account Creation' confirmation page. It states 'An ALEKS account has been created for you. Here is your login name and password.' A box displays the 'Login Name: SSUKHAN3' and 'Password: WALLLEAF'. Below this, it says 'Please write this information down. You will need it to access ALEKS.' There is an optional section for 'Change Your Password' with two password input fields and a green 'Continue' button circled in red.

Step 7: Registration Complete. Click “Continue.”

Registration Complete

Thank you. You are now registered to use ALEKS. If you provided us with an e-mail address, we will send you a confirmation of your ALEKS login name and password.

ALEKS Plug-in Detection

We will now check your computer to see if you have the ALEKS plug-in. [\(what's this?\)](#)

[» Continue](#)

Step 8: Checking for Plug-ins. When the installation is complete, please be sure to close all of your browser windows and then restart your browser.

Looking for ALEKS Plug-in...

ALEKS®

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(This may take a few seconds...)

Loading...

[\[Back to Home Page\]](#)

To Access ALEKS again, Go to www.aleks.com and enter your ALEKS login name and password in the “Registered Users” area and click on “LOGIN.”

My Username: _____

My Password: _____

That’s it; you have now completed your ALEKS Registration and have downloaded the ALEKS Plug-in. You will now be in your ALEKS student account and will begin with the ALEKS Answer Editor Tutorial. Next, you will take a course assessment, receive your ALEKS Pie Chart, and enter the ALEKS Learning Mode. **Remember you only REGISTER in ALEKS once. To enter ALEKS, you simply LOG-IN with your personal login name and password.**

If you need technical support, please contact ALEKS Customer Support at <http://support.aleks.com>.